

Introduction:

- At the end of Mt 12, Jesus has just spoken of the special privilege of his disciples, to be regarded as his true family, and chapter 13 will underline that privilege.
- Matthew 13 is another shift in his book. We call it a narrative passage like chapter 5-7 in the sermon on the mount. Matthew is playing back to us the teachings of Jesus. Chapters 11-12 were short videos of what was happening while Jesus and the disciples traveled. In both Matthew is sending a message.
 - Chapters 11-12 the message was some people receive the kingdom some do not. There are grave consequences for not receiving the Kingdom.
 - Chapter 13 is a group of parables that defines what a persons life looks like who receives the kingdom of heaven.
 - We must remember that parables have one basic truth. That truth is not always obvious. It is hidden just enough to cause the person who wants to find it to be engaged with God. The hearer must participate if they are to gain kingdom understanding.
- As the discourse develops we shall find ample cause to believe that good soil can be found: the kingdom of heaven will grow like mustard seed and penetrate like leaven, and people will rejoice at discovering it as at finding a treasure or a pearl; "hidden things" are meant to be revealed (v. 35). France, R. T. (2007). *The Gospel of Matthew* (p. 509). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.

I. The Kingdom of Heaven

- A. This is the theme of each of the parable that Jesus shares here. (Jesus is making a point!) Each of the parables is a teaching that reveals how the Kingdom of Heaven operates. We must remember that in chapters 5-6 Jesus reveals the heart of King of the kingdom, 8-10 the authority of the kingdom, 11-12 the consequences of rejecting the kingdom and now he teaches how the kingdom works by using parables.
 1. Jesus presents 4 parables two with detailed explanations and two that stand alone.
 2. Matthews purpose is to communicate to the reader that those who live in pursuit of the kingdom will find it and that it will grow extensively in their lives if they continue to look for and receive it.
- B. The parables:
 1. Parable of the Soils - The kingdom bares fruit where it is allowed to. This parable reveals the interaction of the kingdom and the human heart.
 2. Parable of the Wheat and Weeds or the Farmer and his enemy. - It's ok to let the kingdom and the world live side by side.
 3. Parable of the Mustard Seed and the yeast. - A little bit of the kingdom goes a long way.
 4. Parable of the Hidden Treasure - Do what ever it takes to get it.

II. Insiders and Outsiders

- A. Jesus is in a boat while he is preaching. He shares the parable and when He finishes they interrupt him with a question. What I want to point out is the separation between the disciples and those on the shore.
1. They are in close to Jesus the crowd is far away.
 2. They are close enough to ask a question and get an answer that the people will not hear.
 3. The very context of the event stress the point that Jesus is about to make as He answer their question.
- B. 13:10 *"Why do you use parables to when you talk to the people?"*
1. Let's bring out the wrong perspective right away. The wrong perspective is to look at this parable and think that the disciples are something special so they get the revelation.
 2. The wrong perspective is to assume 'special status' because of position with God. But that would be like the Pharisees. There is no special status here. The kingdom is not based on status.
 3. The answer:
 - a) I use parables because the truth is in the picture. It is not obvious but hidden just a little under the surface.
 - b) There are disciples (insiders) and there are the crowds (outsiders)
 - c) The insiders are privy to the truth because they are disciples who are looking to find more of God's truth. The crowds are not looking for the truth they are looking to have their needs met.
 - d) Those who are hungry for God are finding Him. Those who are not are rejecting Him.
 - e) Who can receive the Kingdom and the impact that the Kingdom makes?
 4. What we will see is that there are 'insiders' and 'outsiders' when it comes to the Kingdom of heaven. It is a "secret" in the sense that it is accessible only to the insiders. That does not mean that it is to be jealously guarded from others. Once you have started on the road of spiritual enlightenment, the blessings multiply, but those who do not accept the "message of the kingdom" will lose everything. Vs 19.
 5. Is. 6:9-10 is the direct answer to their question. I do this to fulfill what was prophesied.
 - a) Those with hard hearts cannot receive the kingdom nor my teaching
 - b) Therefore the theme that some get it and some don't remains.
- C. Matthew closes the explanation:
1. Letting the disciples know how blessed they are to be receiving the understanding (all of this is happening in the context of discipleship).
 2. By explaining the what the prophets saw was what they were experiencing now! They longed to see and hear what you see and hear now!

III. The Kingdom Basics

- A. The Word is sown into peoples lives. The Word must go forth.
- B. The Word must be received into the heart and nurtured in order for it to produce.
- C. The Word can have tremendous impact and be unstoppable if believed.

- D. Therefore, revelation that comes through the word is like treasure! Do whatever you have to do to get it!!
- E. The chapter closes with Jesus leaving there for Nazareth his home town. Remember, Matthew is writing a book so the hearers perceive what he knows. So the closing on this section by going to Nazareth further illustrates the limitation that men put upon
 1. Jesus - the authority not accepted.
 2. The Word - reality of the treasure is ignored.
 3. Therefore there is not production.

Conclusion:

- Overview from the authors perspectives gives us insights into where he is going.
- When we know where he is going it allows us to 'dig' where the treasure will be.